



## National Coalition for the Homeless Newsletter

NCH NEWS

July 22, 2010

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Help NCH make Homelessness a Part of our Past, NOT our Future

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### Join Us for a Free Webinar on *A Place at the Table*

On Thursday, July 29th, at 3:30 p.m., EDT, the NCH and the National Law Center will host a webinar to discuss topics explored in the recently released report [A Place at the Table: Prohibitions on Sharing Food with People Experiencing Homelessness](#). The report focuses on cities that have created ordinances, policies, and tactics to limit groups from sharing food with homeless people, and highlights alternatives to those restrictions.

The goal of the webinar is to provide local advocates with practical tips, advice, and support to work collaboratively with the city government to address food sharing concerns. Additionally, it will give participants a closer look at an innovative and replicable program that engages students in addressing hunger in their communities.

The webinar will be held on **July 29, 2010** from **3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. EDT**. To register [click here](#).

### Life Legacy and Inspiration of Mitch Snyder

The Community for Creative Non-Violence (CCNV), the former Federal City College building and, at one time, the largest homeless shelter in the United States, sits at what used to be the intersection of D and 2nd Streets Northwest and what is now the intersection of D Street and Mitch Snyder Place.

Snyder joined CCNV in 1973 and passed away in July of 1990. In only 17 years, Mitch Snyder became one of the most influential, controversial and, perhaps, important homeless advocates in American history. Now, 20 years after his death Mitch Snyder is remembered not only by the street which holds his name but also for an ongoing legacy of humanizing the homeless people. [Read more here](#)

Also, look for NCH's new [blog posts](#) reflecting on Mitch Snyder's work from two generations of advocates.

### Policy Updates

#### Updated Rapid Rehousing Manual for Providers

As we wait for Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act (HEARTH) regulations to be released by congress, take a look at the updated manual by several NCH board members. [Rapid Rehousing: A Manual for Providers](#) was designed to lead providers through the key building blocks of a Rapid Rehousing and Homelessness Prevention (HPRP) Program. It is a guide based upon Elim Transitional Housing in Minnesota that can be adjusted to reflect the philosophy and mission of particular programs, within context of available community resources and funding restrictions. NCH Board Members are available to assist with further questions. We'll be posting the HEARTH regulations as soon as they are released!

#### Celebrating a Victory in Charlotte County, Florida!

Charlotte County Commissioners voted against a ban that would criminalize living or sleeping outdoors in temporary shelter on public or private property without permission from the landowner. The July 13th, 3-2 vote was a rare, but exciting, victory against a national trend to criminalize homelessness.

NCH and The National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty's bi-annual report [Homes Not Handcuffs: The Criminalization of Homelessness in U.S. Cities](#), was used by advocates to successfully oppose the anti-lodging law. The Charlotte County Homeless Coalition (CCHC) was very influential in the decision. Past and Current CCHC Board Presidents, Kevin Russell and Mark Martella, and CCHC Executive Director, Angela Hogan, met with the county commissioners and Assistance County Attorney before the vote. According to Martella, meeting privately and negotiating with public officials instead of embarrassing officials with a public protest made them more effective advocates in their small town community. Through personal lobbying visits, the trio was able to show how the law would be an ineffective solution to the county's concerns. In addition, The Law Center also sent a letter to the commissioners outlining both the constitutional and logistical concerns that such an anti-lodging law would create.

#### Take Action to Ensure Deficit Reduction Doesn't Hurt Low-Income Citizens

On June 30, 119 national organizations sent a [letter](#) to the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and

Reform, urging it to adopt the principle that lower income people should not be harmed by its recommendations - indeed, that smart investments to help low-income people will strengthen the economy and the nation. The commission is working to lower the deficit. We agree steps should be taken to address a long-term problem. But deficit reduction is a means to an end - the end being a strong economy with prosperity shared by all. If you agree that reducing the deficit by making cuts that hurt low-income people will only weaken the economy and our nation, please [sign the letter](#). Be assured that we can fix the long-term problem through equitable and sensible revenue increases and savings in areas such as waste in the military or in other areas. But we cannot fix the problem by creating roadblocks for millions of people to be productive participants in our nation's future. Now we want to show that organizations in every state agree. Please sign the letter by **Friday, August 27**.

[Read the letter](#) and see the [national group signers](#) as of June 30.

[Sign](#) the letter by Friday, August 27.

## Support Our Mission

### Reward Points to End Homelessness

Want to give back but don't have extra cash? Two great programs offer you an easy way to turn your rewards points into contributions! JustGive partners with American Express to offer the [Giving Express](#) program. Card members who are enrolled in Membership Rewards can donate their points and NCH receives \$10 for every 1,000 points! Hilton offers a way for their customers to contribute to charity through the [HHonors Give Back Program](#). Every 10,000 points equals a \$25 contribution.

## National Events

### HUD is Hosting a Transforming Rental Assistance (TRA) Webcast

HUD is hosting a webcast on their Transforming Rental Assistance (TRA) proposal. The webcast will take place on **Thursday, July 22, 2010 at 2 PM EST**.

The recently released Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness (FSP) underscored the point many have been making for decades, that access to affordable housing is the essential building block for ending homelessness. As a result, HUD is engaged in a number of efforts to increase the availability of affordable housing and ensure HUD's existing stock of affordable housing is not lost. One of those efforts is our Transforming Rental Assistance (TRA) proposal. TRA is a multi-year initiative, for which HUD has requested \$350 million for FY 2011 to preserve HUD-funded public and assisted housing, put the nation's inventory of deeply affordable rental housing on a sustainable financial footing, and promote housing choice. While TRA is not targeted specifically to homeless persons, the program would certainly have a positive impact on homeless individuals and families by enhancing housing choice for residents and increasing the share of HUD-assisted households living in lower-poverty communities, in addition to streamlining the administration of HUD's rental assistance programs. For more information, you can visit: [www.hud.gov/tra](http://www.hud.gov/tra)

At access the Webcast, please go to <http://portal.hud.gov/portal/page/portal/HUD/webcasts/schedule>

### GAO Releases Two Reports on Federal Homelessness Services

The US Government Accounting Office (GAO) released a report this week that finds that comparing the extent of homelessness in rural and non-rural areas is difficult primarily due to data limitations. Download the free report here: [Rural Homelessness: Better Collaboration by HHS and HUD Could Improve Delivery of Services in Rural Areas](#).

Read NCH's 2009 factsheet on rural homelessness. [Here](#)

The US Government Accounting Office also released a report on July 11, 2010 on the differing definitions of homelessness held by Federal agencies. Download the free report here: [HOMELESSNESS: A Common Vocabulary Could Help Agencies Collaborate and Collect More Consistent Data](#).

### A Cup for a Better World: Scoring goals in the game of life

While the FIFA World Cup took place in June and July in South Africa, this summer Washington DC is the stage for a unique "sport for social change event": more than 200 homeless soccer players from across the country compete for the Street Soccer USA Championship 2010.

The national non-profit organization "Street Soccer USA" (SSUSA) utilizes the power of soccer to turn the lives of homeless for the better. For this reason SSUSA is hosting the annual Street Soccer USA Cup for the homeless in Washington DC. From July 30th till August 1st teams of males and females representing a variety of agencies (grassroots, city wide, and national homeless service providers) from 18 cities will compete in fast-paced, 4 versus 4 street soccer action at the Kastles Stadium in downtown Washington.

The best way to support the players is to simply cheer. Everyone in Washington D.C. and the surrounding areas is invited to get in touch with street soccer and to enjoy a great entertainment program: Played during the day and under the lights in 2,500 seats Washington Kastles Stadium, the Street Soccer USA Cup comprises the opening day Parade of States, Celebrity First Kick, live musical entertainment, exhibition matches, food, and fun for the whole family. [RESERVE YOUR FREE TICKETS TODAY](#)

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